



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017

No. 74

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 1, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LIZ CHENEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### THE PAGO PAGO DECLARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation and that of the Samoan people for the April 23 visit of Vice President MIKE PENCE, who was accompanied by the Second Lady and their daughters to my home district, the United States Territory of American Samoa, upon the conclusion of his historic 10-day visit to strategic Asian and Pacific partners. Upon his arrival to Pago Pago, the Vice President remarked that he was glad to be back on American soil.

This historic visit to American Samoa marks only the third time a sitting Vice President has graced our shores and follows in the footsteps of past visits from Vice Presidents Quayle in 1989 and Biden in 2016. Previous visits to our beautiful islands from White House dignitaries include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1943, President Lyndon Johnson in 1966, and President Jimmy Carter's son, Jeffrey, who represented his father at the inauguration of our first elected Governor in 1977, who happens to be my father, Peter Tali Coleman.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to legislation I introduced in February, which was enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on May 31, the Vice President came to American Samoa at my humble request to dedicate our veterans clinic to the memory of the late former representative of American Samoa, Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomavaega, with whom the Vice President served the entirety of his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2003 to 2013.

While in American Samoa, the Vice President also reviewed the troops comprised of Reserve companies who are part of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry of the U.S. Army based in Hawaii. Headquartered at Ft. Shafter in Honolulu, the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry is the only infantry unit in the entire United States Army Reserve. Samoan soldiers who are part of the battalion have fought and served bravely in conflicts from Desert Storm to Afghanistan and Iraq, and others, since the companies were relocated to American Samoa in 1980.

Madam Speaker, American Samoa takes particular pride that Vice President PENCE was able to celebrate with us the 109th anniversary of the establishment of the United States Army Reserves, which just happened to line up perfectly with his visit.

While the Vice President's journey was well covered by international and

domestic media, most outlets outside of the Pacific failed to report a significant statement he made, which I have called the Pago Pago Declaration. This important statement made on our soil was well noted and well received in the Pacific Islands.

Specifically, the Vice President spoke of the challenges the U.S. faces in Asia and the Pacific and confirmed to the audience assembled that, as quoted by Radio New Zealand International and broadcast region-wide: "We're here to stay, we're here for peace, we're here for the prosperity of all of our people, and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa."

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD this Radio New Zealand International story.

[From Radio New Zealand, Apr. 25, 2017]

### AMERICAN SAMOANS TOLD US IS COMMITTED TO REGIONAL PEACE

The United States Vice President has told American Samoans that his country is committed to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mike Pence made a brief stopover in the US territory yesterday where he was greeted by Governor Lobo Matalasi Moliga his wife, the Lieutenant-Governor Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Chief Justice Michael Kruse, House Speaker Savali Talavou Ale'a and congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen.

Secret Service agents restricted access and only a few leaders were allowed to shake hands with the Vice-President. Governor Lobo apologized to traditional leaders who weren't able to conduct a traditional ceremony because of security restrictions. Mr Pence, who was with his wife Karen, thanked American Samoans for their support and prayers.

He said it was an important time for the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr Pence said he was in the territory on behalf of President Donald Trump to symbolise the US commitment to the area.

"We're here to stay, we're here for peace, we're here for the prosperity of all of our people and we are proud the American flag flies in American Samoa," he said.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2975